GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2737
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
DIGBOI OIL REFINERY
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Digboi Oil Refinery in Assam is facing a problem of close-down;

(b) if so, whether Assam Pollution Control Board has issued orders for its closure;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether refinery has submitted any clarification to the objections raised by the Assam Pollution Control Board;

(e) if so, the status of the Refinery at present; and

(f) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c): Digboi refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) was served a notice on 12.2.2001 to stop release of effluents by the Assam Pollution Control Board (APCB) for alleged violation of Pollution norms.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f): Upon immediate reply to the notice by the refinery APCB officials inspected the facilities and effluent treatment system in place for pollution control. An affidavit indicating the action plan for further upgrading the effluent treatment facilities alongwith a bank guarantee of Rs.5 lakh was submitted on 8.3.2001. Based on the inspection/affidavit, APCB vide letter dated 12.3.2001, kept the closure notice in abeyance and allowed the discharge of treated effluent. The refinery operations are normal with its treated effluent meeting the stipulated norms.